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Technology Center 2100

In re Application of: Larry Brown et al.)
Application No. 09/895,801)
Filed: June 29, 2001)
For: AUTOMATIC INFORMATION)
SANITIZER)

**DECISION ON PETITION TO
MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37
C.F.R. §1.102 AND M.P.E.P.
§708.02(XI): COUNTERING
TERRORISM**

This is a decision on the petition to make special filed September 12, 2003 under 37 C.F.R. §102(d) and M.P.E.P. §708.02(XI): Inventions For Countering Terrorism.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

M.P.E.P. §708.02 (XI), which sets out the prerequisites for a grantable petition for Inventions For Countering Terrorism under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d), states in relevant part:

International terrorism as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2331 includes “activities that - (A) involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State; [and] (B) appear to be intended - (I) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping...” The types of technology for countering terrorism could include, but are not limited to, systems for detecting/identifying explosives, aircraft sensors/security systems, and vehicular barricades/disabling systems.

Applicants who desire that an application relating to inventions for countering terrorism be made special should file a petition with the petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(h) requesting the Patent and Trademark Office to make the application special. The petition for special status should be accompanied by a statement explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism.

Petitioner's submission fails to meet the criteria set out with respect to countering terrorism in M.P.E.P. §708.02(XI). The claimed invention is generally directed to a method and system for sanitizing messages which can be used for controlling access to sensitive information by automating the process of screening data for the clearance levels of potential recipients. Note, that there is no

mention of terrorist activity in the disclosure. Computer security systems do not directly prevent "violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State" or activities "that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State". Furthermore, security compartmentalization does not directly prevent acts that appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping.

As a result, no advancement in the technology of countering terrorism has been persuasively shown.

Accordingly, the petition is **DISMISSED**. The application file is being forwarded to Central Files to await examination in its proper turn based on its effective filing date.

It is suggested that Applicant review M.P.E.P. §708.02 regarding other grounds available for filing a petition to make special. In particular, note M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII): Accelerated Examination, which does not place limitations on the subject matter of the application.

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